MARVEL COMICS
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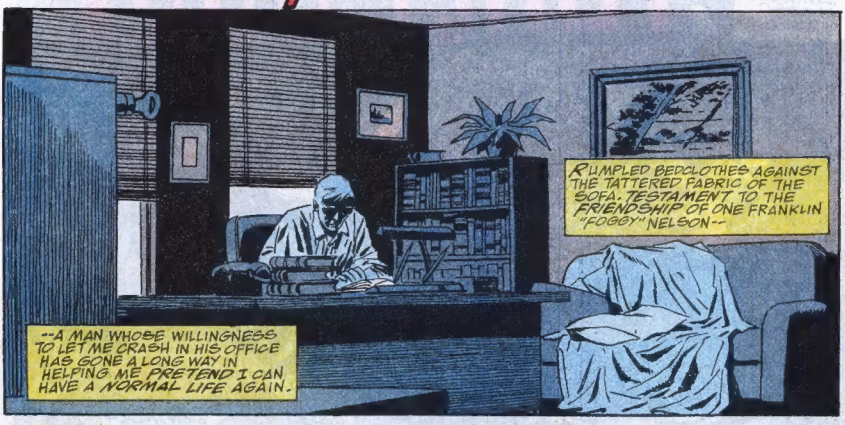
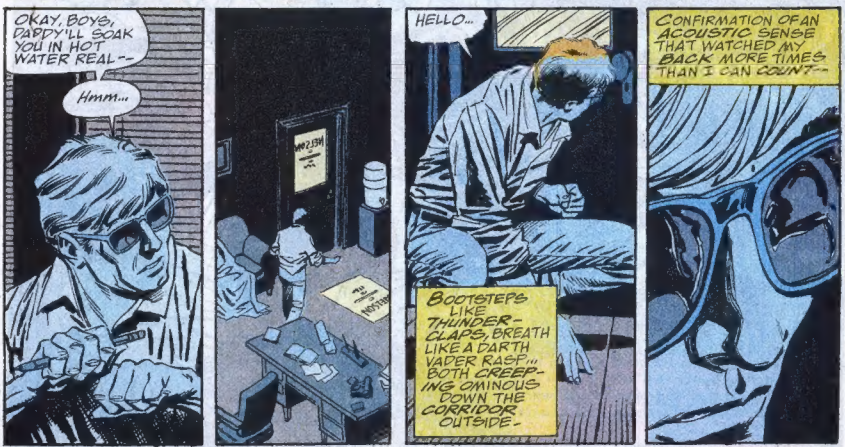
LAST RITES
Part II of IV
DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!
WEEKS
SPECIAL GUEST STAR
NICK FURY, AGENT OF...
S.H.I.E.L.D.
50 YEARS
OF CAPTAIN AMERICA
a Bchry Scan

A CHILDHOOD ACCIDENT STOLE HIS SIGHT, BUT, INCREDIBLY, IT ENDOWED YOUNG MATT MURDOCK WITH RADAR VISION AND HEIGHTENED SENSES. ARMED ONLY WITH HIS ATHLETIC PROWESS, BILLY CLUB, AND INDOMITABLE COURAGE, MATT BATTLES INJUSTICE AS A CRIMSON-CLAD GLADIATOR!

Stan Lee presents: DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!





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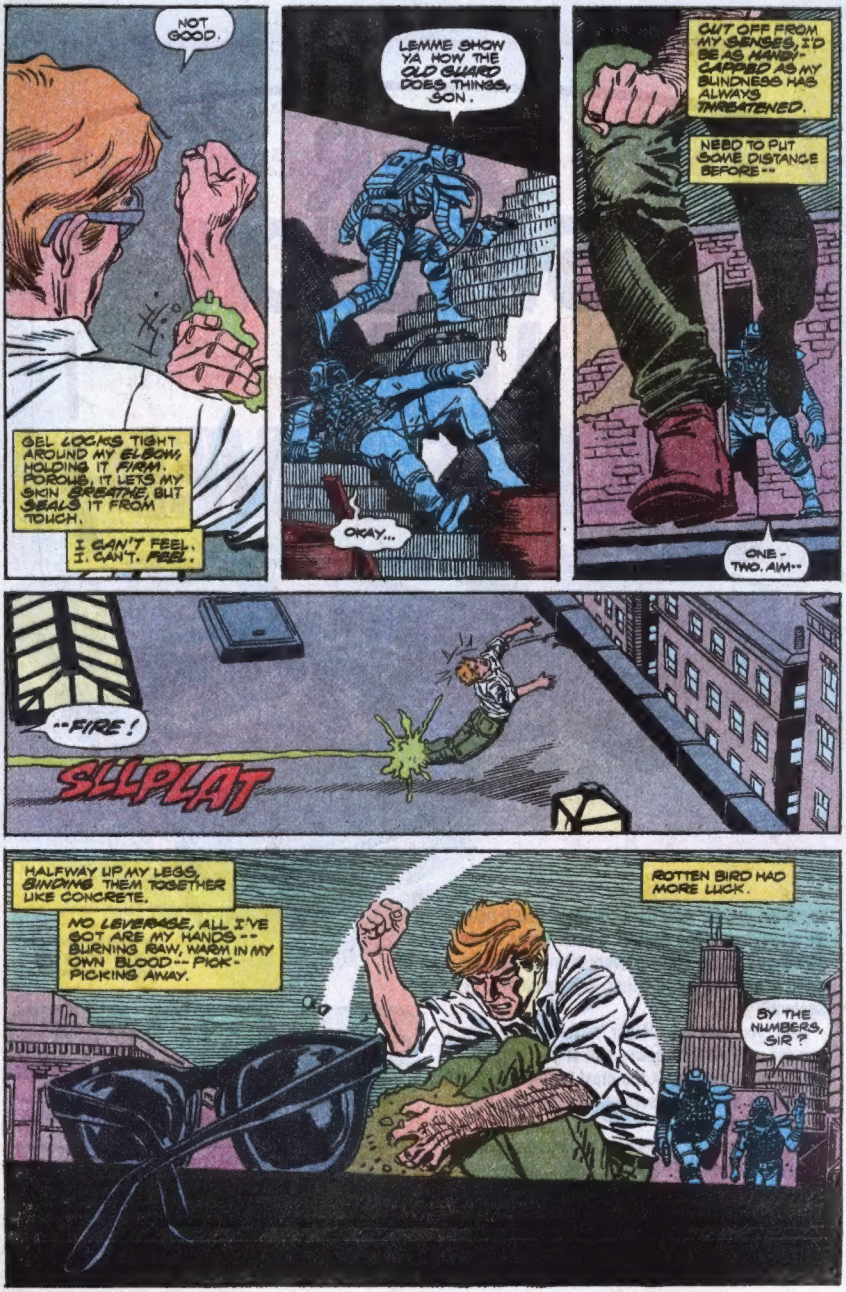
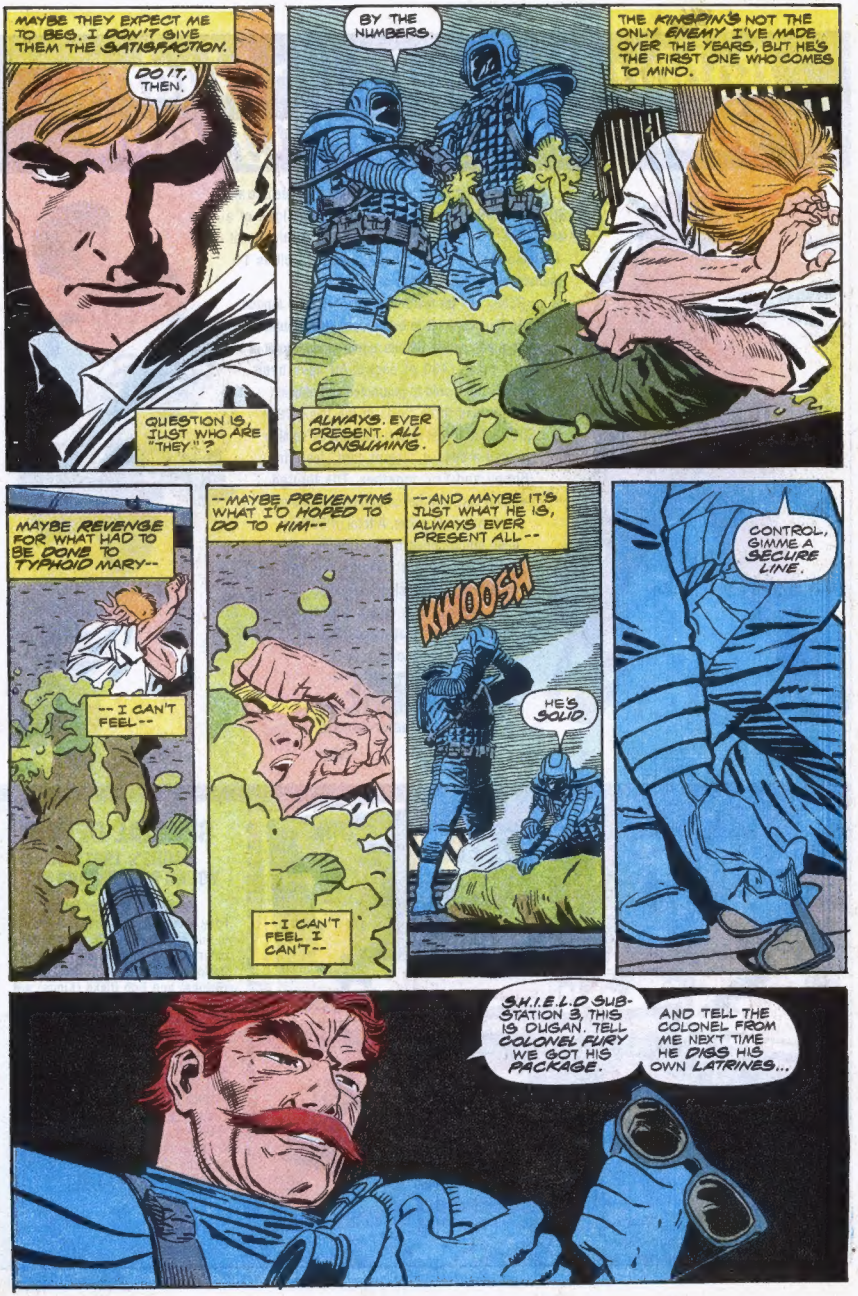
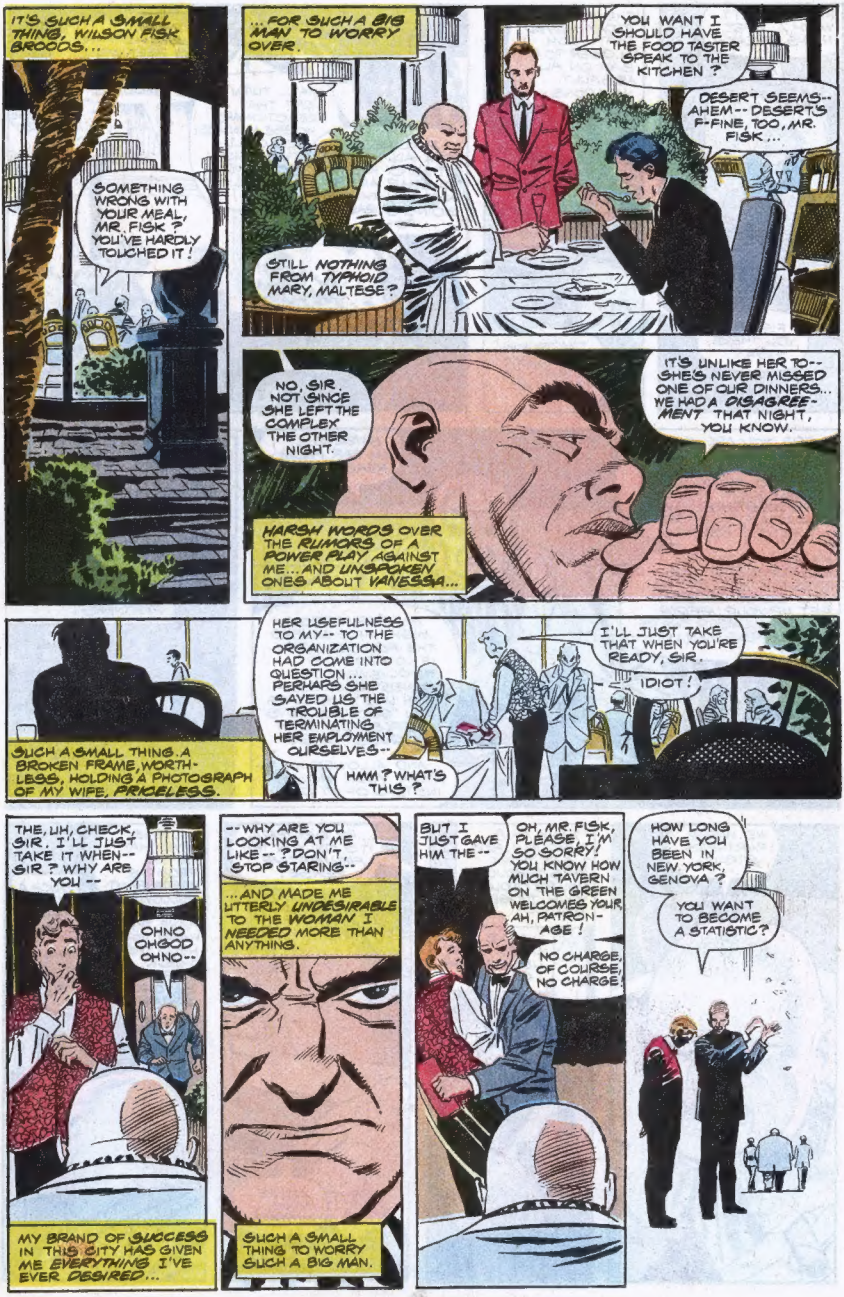
PART 2
TURNABOUT
--AND WITNESS TO EVERYTHING YOU'VE EVER HEARD ABOUT LIVING IN NEW YORK--
CONTROL-- WE HAVE TARGET ACQUISITION--
"In taking possession of a state the conqueror should well reflect as to the harsh measures that may be necessary and then execute them at a single blow..."
-- Niccolò Macchiavelli
A RECKONING IN FOUR PARTS.
D.G. CHICHESTER WRITER
LEE WEEKS PENCILS
AL WILLIAMSON INKS
MAX SCHEELE COLORS
M. HANDS LETTERS
RALF MACCHIO EDITOR
TOM DeFALCO CHIEF

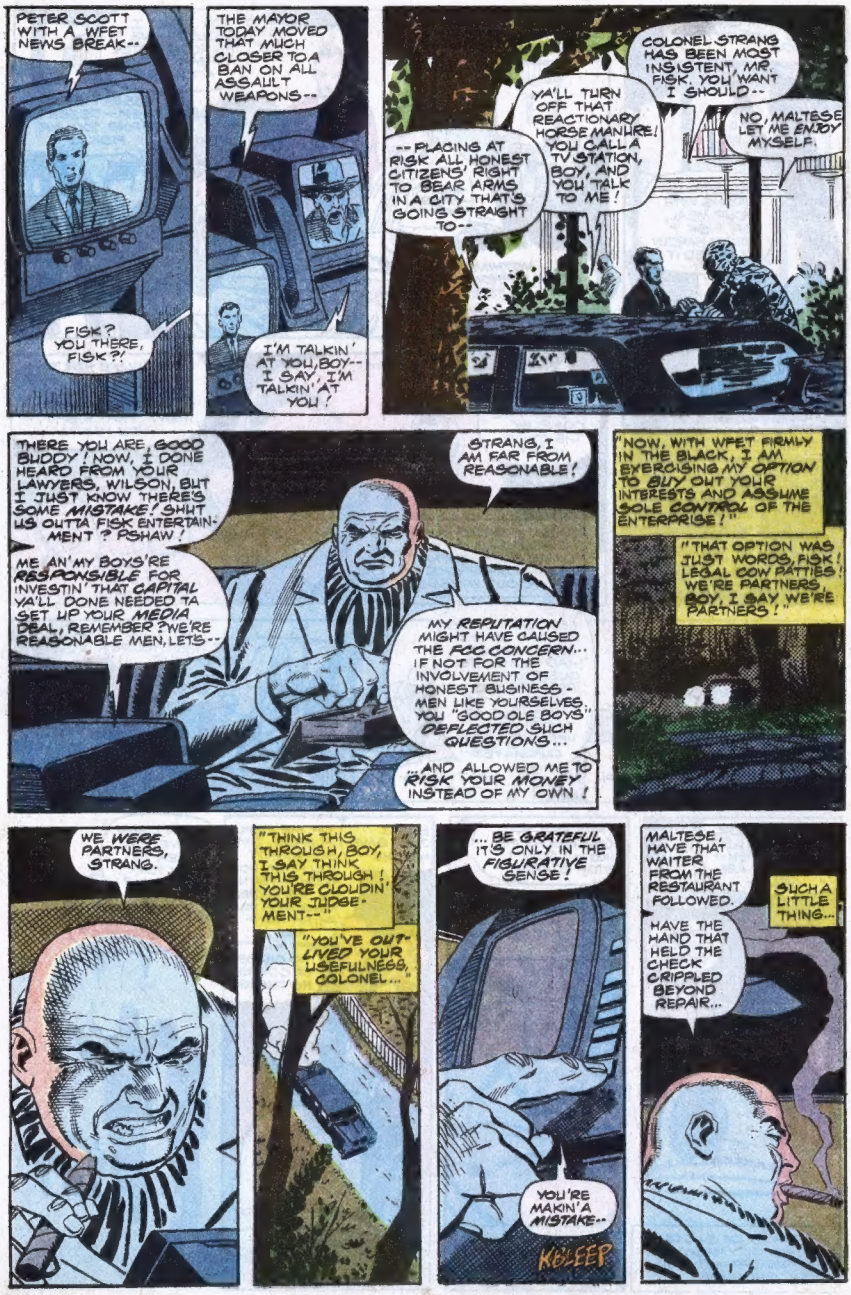
--AKGT!
CONTROL, TARGET IS MOBILE--
YOU'VE GOT NOTHING!
THEY MOVE FAST. MY RADAR RETURNS THEIR POSITIONS FASTER.
THEY MAY AS WELL BE STANDING STILL.
--MOVING TO PHASE 2.
SPLTCHT
PLAT
UH-UH
PHASE 2 ANNOUNCES ITSELF AS A DRIVING UPPERCUT OF AIR TO THE MIDSECTION--
--TACTILE SENSATION THAT LEAVES ME CONVINCED I DON'T WANT TO MEET THE REAL THING.
BITING ODOR OF POLYSTYRENE, QUICKLY FADING AS IT HARDENS, STYROFOAM-LIKE YET STILL RIGID.
CAN'T BE GOOD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT--
MOVE IT, WE'RE LOSING 'IM--
--NOT TO MENTION ME.
SLPP!
WILD SHOT SNAGS A PIGEON'S LEG ACROSS THE WAY, ITS SCREECH AND THE PECK-PECKING OF ITS BEAK AS IT FREES ITSELF CLUEING ME IN.

MY BREAK-AND-ENTER BOUNTY HUNTERS NEED TO SEE I'M NOT THAT EASY.
LOOK AT HIM GO!
WHAT'D YA EXPECT, BOYO? YOU READ THE FILE!
THE ROOFTOP REFLECTS BACK AT ME ALL AT ONCE, A CRUDE MAP OF BLOCKY STRUCTURES AND ROOM TO MANEUVER.
HYPERSENSITIVE HEARING IS MORE SPECIFIC, PINPOINTING AN ASCENDING RHYTHM --
NOW WE'VE GOT--
--LEATHER SOLES SCUFFING THEIR WAY UP CONCRETE STEPS.
KNOCK-KNOCK!
THAAM
SPLAT
YA DID READ THE FILE, DIDN'TCHA, BOYO?
ASKT!


NOT GOOD.
GEL LOCKS TIGHT AROUND MY ELBOW, HOLDING IT FIRM. POROUS, IT LETS MY SKIN BREATHE, BUT SEALS IT FROM TOUCH.
I CAN'T FEEL. I CAN'T. FEEL.
LEMME SHOW YA HOW THE OLD GUARD DOES THINGS, SON.
OKAY...
CUT OFF FROM MY SENSES, I'D BE AS HANDY-CAPPED AS MY BLINDNESS HAS ALWAYS THREATENED.
NEED TO PUT SOME DISTANCE BEFORE--
ONE - TWO. AIM--
--FIRE!
SLLPLAT
HALFWAY UP MY LEGS, BINDING THEM TOGETHER LIKE CONCRETE.
NO LEVERAGE. ALL I'VE GOT ARE MY HANDS -- BURNING RAW, WARM IN MY OWN BLOOD -- PICK-PICKING AWAY.
ROTTEN BIRD HAD MORE LUCK.
BY THE NUMBERS, SIR?


MAYBE THEY EXPECT ME TO BEG. I DON'T GIVE THEM THE SATISFACTION.
DO IT, THEN.
QUESTION IS, JUST WHO ARE "THEY"?
BY THE NUMBERS.
THE KINGPIN'S NOT THE ONLY ENEMY I'VE MADE OVER THE YEARS, BUT HE'S THE FIRST ONE WHO COMES TO MIND.
ALWAYS. EVER PRESENT. ALL CONSUMING.
MAYBE REVENGE FOR WHAT HAD TO BE DONE TO TYPHOID MARY--
--I CAN'T FEEL--
--MAYBE PREVENTING WHAT I'D HOPED TO DO TO HIM--
--I CAN'T FEEL I CAN'T--
--AND MAYBE IT'S JUST WHAT HE IS, ALWAYS EVER PRESENT ALL--
KWOOSH
HE'S SOLID.
CONTROL, GIMME A SECURE LINE.
S.H.I.E.L.D SUBSTATION 3, THIS IS DUGAN. TELL COLONEL FURY WE GOT HIS PACKAGE.
AND TELL THE COLONEL FROM ME NEXT TIME HE DIGS HIS OWN LATRINES...


IT'S SUCH A SMALL THING, WILSON FISK BROODS...
SOMETHING WRONG WITH YOUR MEAL, MR. FISK? YOU'VE HARDLY TOUCHED IT!
...FOR SUCH A BIG MAN TO WORRY OVER.
YOU WANT I SHOULD HAVE THE FOOD TASTER SPEAK TO THE KITCHEN?
DESERT SEEMS-- AHEM-- DESERT'S F-FINE, TOO, MR. FISK...
STILL NOTHING FROM TYPHOID MARY, MALTESE?
NO, SIR. NOT SINCE SHE LEFT THE COMPLEX THE OTHER NIGHT.
IT'S UNLIKE HER TO-- SHE'S NEVER MISSED ONE OF OUR DINNERS... WE HAD A DISAGREEMENT THAT NIGHT, YOU KNOW.
HARSH WORDS OVER THE RUMORS OF A POWER PLAY AGAINST ME...AND UNSPOKEN ONES ABOUT VANESSA...
SUCH A SMALL THING. A BROKEN FRAME, WORTHLESS, HOLDING A PHOTOGRAPH OF MY WIFE, PRICELESS.
HER USEFULNESS TO MY-- TO THE ORGANIZATION HAD COME INTO QUESTION... PERHAPS SHE SAVED US THE TROUBLE OF TERMINATING HER EMPLOYMENT OURSELVES--
HMM? WHAT'S THIS?
I'LL JUST TAKE THAT WHEN YOU'RE READY, SIR.
IDIOT!
THE, UH, CHECK, SIR. I'LL JUST TAKE IT WHEN-- SIR? WHY ARE YOU--
OHNO OHGOD OHNO--
MY BRAND OF SUCCESS IN THIS CITY HAS GIVEN ME EVERYTHING I'VE EVER DESIRED...
--WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME LIKE-- ? DON'T, STOP STARING--
...AND MADE ME UTTERLY UNDESIRABLE TO THE WOMAN I NEEDED MORE THAN ANYTHING.
SUCH A SMALL THING TO WORRY SUCH A BIG MAN.
BUT I JUST GAVE HIM THE--
OH, MR. FISK, PLEASE, I'M SO SORRY! YOU KNOW HOW MUCH TAVERN ON THE GREEN WELCOMES YOUR, AH, PATRONAGE!
NO CHARGE, OF COURSE, NO CHARGE.
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN IN NEW YORK, GENOVA?
YOU WANT TO BECOME A STATISTIC?


PETER SCOTT WITH A WFET NEWS BREAK--
FISK? YOU THERE, FISK?!
THE MAYOR TODAY MOVED THAT MUCH CLOSER TO A BAN ON ALL ASSAULT WEAPONS--
I'M TALKIN' AT YOU, BOY-- I SAY, I'M TALKIN' AT YOU!
COLONEL STRANG HAS BEEN MOST INSISTENT, MR. FISK, YOU WANT I SHOULD--
NO, MALTESE LET ME ENJOY MYSELF.
YA'LL TURN OFF THAT REACTIONARY HORSE MANURE! YOU CALL A TV STATION, BOY, AND YOU TALK TO ME!
--PLACING AT RISK ALL HONEST CITIZENS' RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS IN A CITY THAT'S GOING STRAIGHT TO--
THERE YOU ARE, GOOD BUDDY! NOW, I DONE HEARD FROM YOUR LAWYERS, WILSON, BUT I JUST KNOW THERE'S SOME MISTAKE! SHUT US OUTTA FISK ENTERTAINMENT? PSHAW!
ME AN' MY BOYS'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR INVESTIN' THAT CAPITAL YA'LL DONE NEEDED TA SET UP YOUR MEDIA DEAL, REMEMBER? WE'RE REASONABLE MEN, LETS--
STRANG, I AM FAR FROM REASONABLE!
MY REPUTATION MIGHT HAVE CAUSED THE FCC CONCERN... IF NOT FOR THE INVOLVEMENT OF HONEST BUSINESS-MEN LIKE YOURSELVES, YOU "GOOD OLE BOYS" DEFLECTED SUCH QUESTIONS...
AND ALLOWED ME TO RISK YOUR MONEY INSTEAD OF MY OWN!
"NOW, WITH WFET FIRMLY IN THE BLACK, I AM EXERCISING MY OPTION TO BUY OUT YOUR INTERESTS AND ASSUME SOLE CONTROL OF THE ENTERPRISE!"
"THAT OPTION WAS JUST WORDS, FISK! LEGAL MUMBO PATTIES! WE'RE PARTNERS, BOY, I SAY WE'RE PARTNERS!"
WE WERE PARTNERS, STRANG.
"THINK THIS THROUGH, BOY, I SAY THINK THIS THROUGH! YOU'RE CLOUDIN' YOUR JUDGEMENT--"
"YOU'VE OUTLIVED YOUR USEFULNESS, COLONEL..."
...BE GRATEFUL IT'S ONLY IN THE FIGURATIVE SENSE!
YOU'RE MAKIN' A MISTAKE--
KBLEEP
MALTESE, HAVE THAT WAITER FROM THE RESTAURANT FOLLOWED.
SUCH A LITTLE THING...
HAVE THE HAND THAT HELD THE CHECK CRIPPLED BEYOND REPAIR...

RE-AGENT APPLIED, COLONEL.

ALL RIGHT, CRACK 'IM!

THE SOUND COMES THROUGH THE VOID, A SHRILL HISS LIKE A DRIVING RAIN--

--MANY HANDS BREAKING OFF THE OUTER EDGES OF MY ONE-MAN PRISON.

RK FWOOSH

ANOTHER CHUNK OF THE SHELL TEARS AWAY, LETTING THROUGH A SUDDEN WIFF OF SULFUR.

MY LEFT ARM COMES FREE, FINGERS SCRABBLING AGAINST THE LOOSENING GRANULES OF PLASTIC SMOOTH.

A RAGGED CRACKLE OF DRIED LEAVES, THE NONE-TOO-PLEASANT SMELL OF TOBACCO MIXING WITH SKIN OILS.

DISTINCTIVE HEARTBEATS AND BODY ODOR THAT WOULD'VE I.D.'ED MY CAPTORS BACK ON THE ROOF GOT CLOAKED UNDER THICK INSULATED UNIFORMS AND RUMBLING BREATHING GEAR.

HERE THEY GOT TOGETHER WITH A STINKING CLOUD OF CIGAR SMOKE TO NAME NAMES--

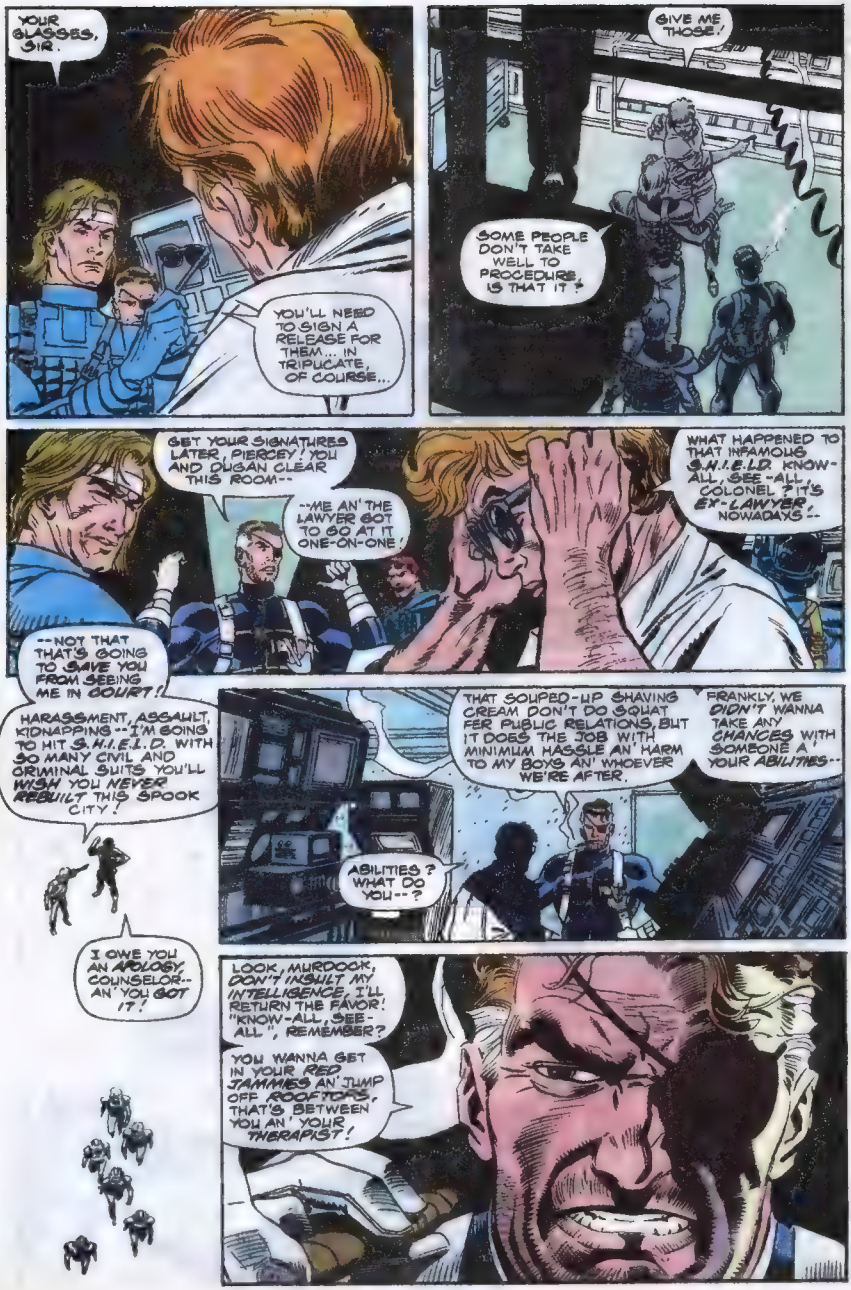
MOVE IT, YA YAHOOS--WE AIN'T GOT ALL NIGHT!

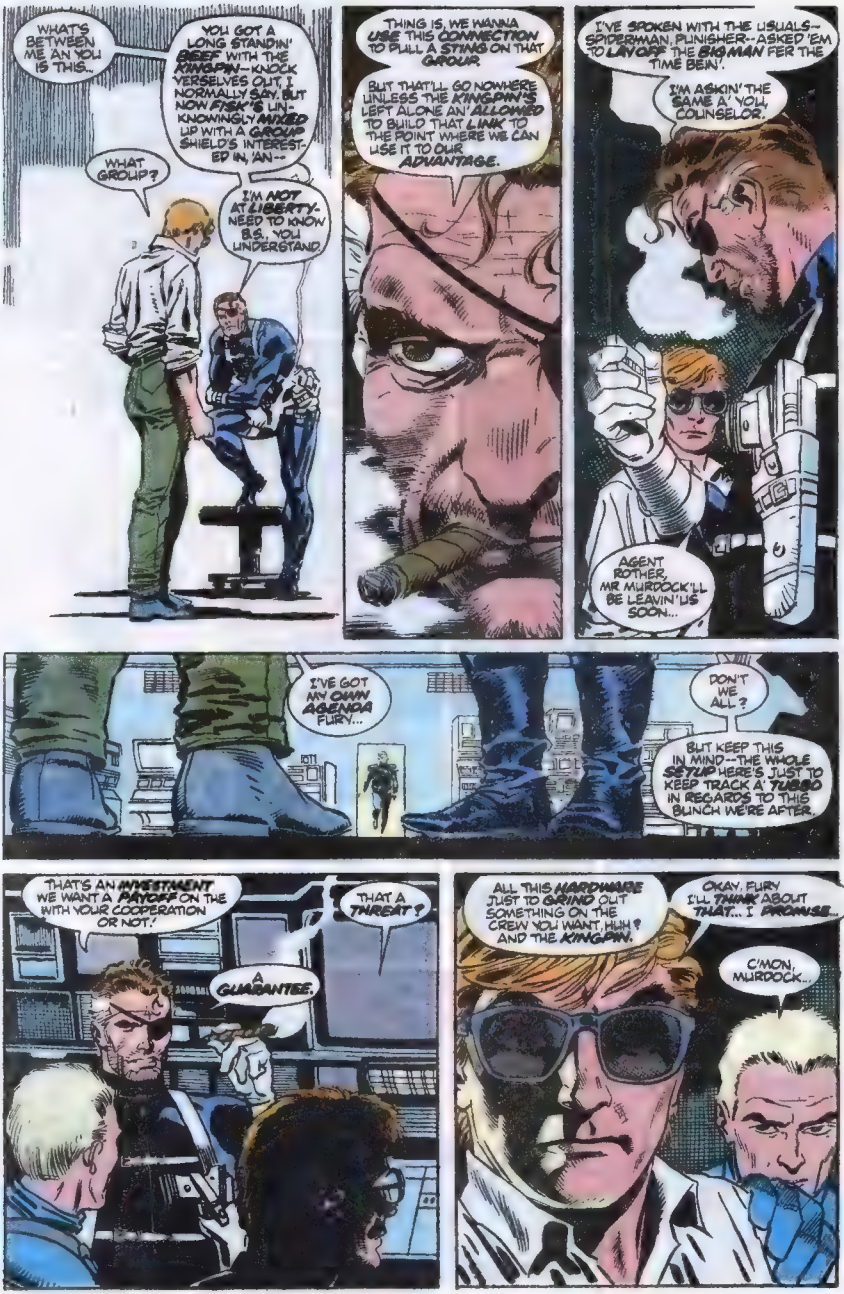
--ONE IN PARTICULAR, ATTACHED TO A VOICE LIKE SHIFTING GRAVEL.

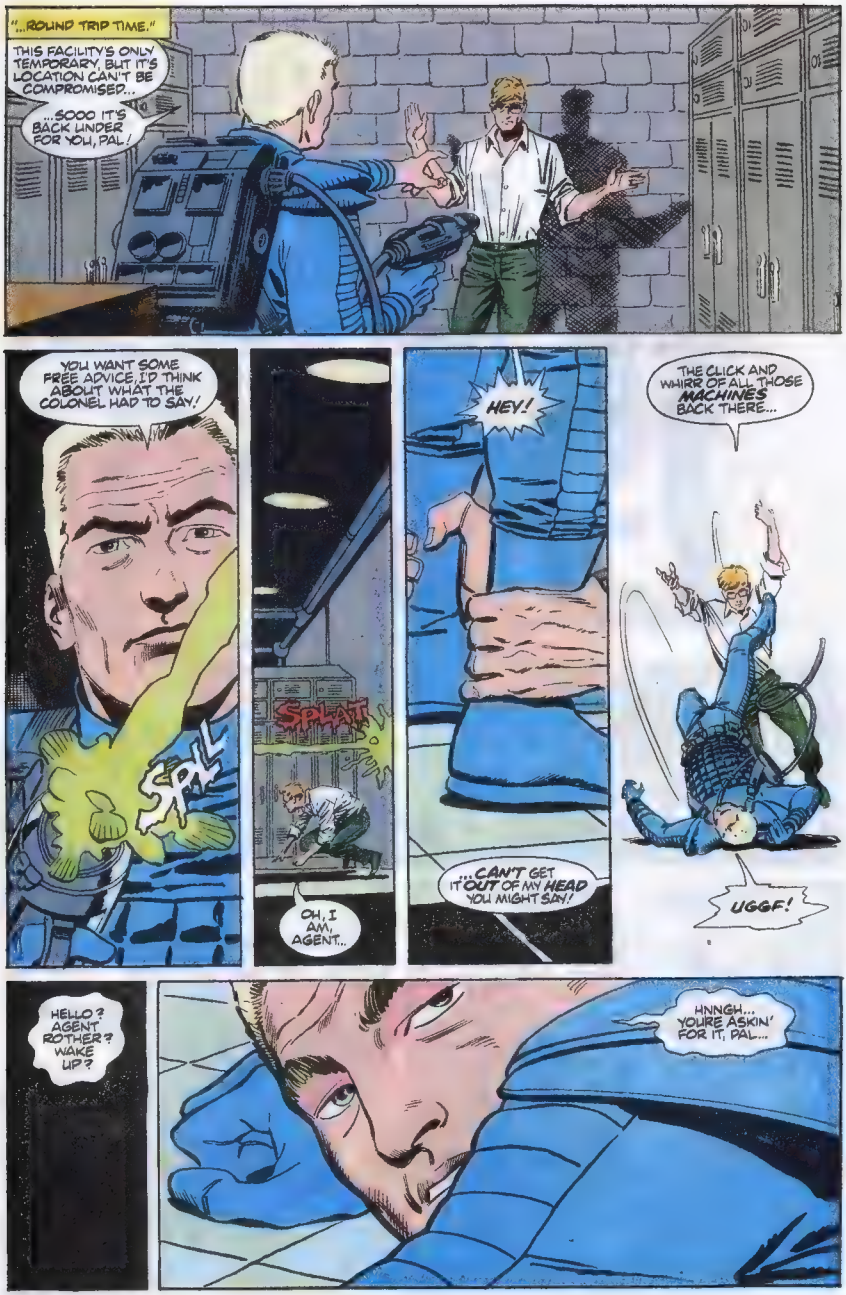
EVENIN', MR. MURDOCK...

THE IMPROBABLY WELL-KNOWN DIRECTOR OF THE HUSH-HUSH ESPIONAGE AGENCY, S.H.I.E.L.D.--

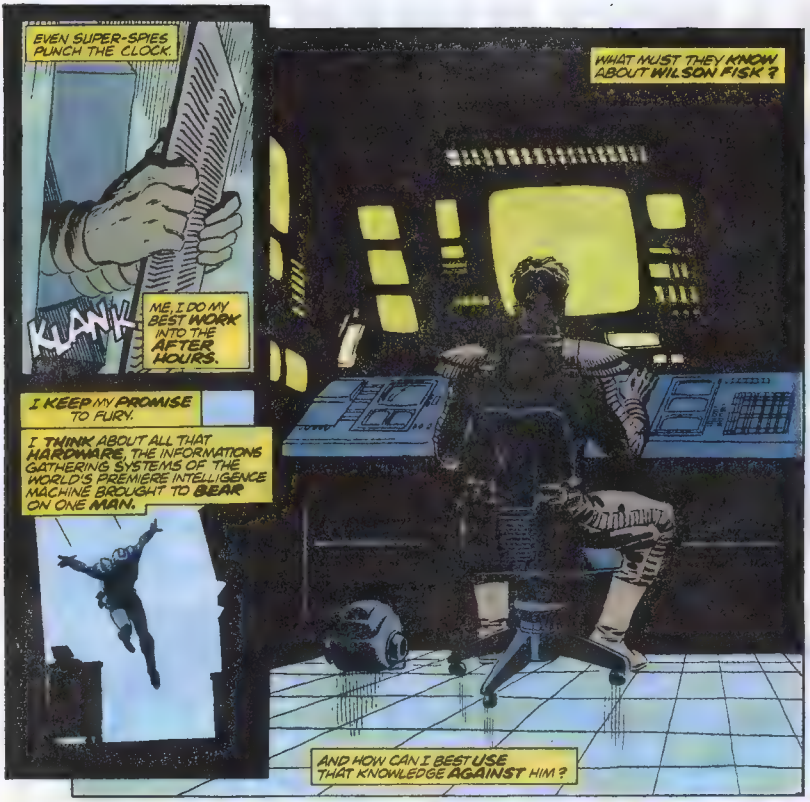
... GLAD YA COULD MAKE IT.
NICK FURY!


YOUR GLASSES, SIR.
YOU'LL NEED TO SIGN A RELEASE FOR THEM... IN TRIPLICATE, OF COURSE...
GIVE ME THOSE!
SOME PEOPLE DON'T TAKE WELL TO PROCEDURE, IS THAT IT?
GET YOUR SIGNATURES LATER, PIERCEY! YOU AND DUGAN CLEAR THIS ROOM--
--ME AN' THE LAWYER GOT TO GO AT IT ONE-ON-ONE!
WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT INFAMOUS S.H.I.E.L.D. KNOW-ALL, SEE-ALL COLONEL? IT'S EX-LAWYER, NOWADAYS--
--NOT THAT THAT'S GOING TO SAVE YOU FROM SEEING ME IN COURT!
HARASSMENT, ASSAULT, KIDNAPPING--I'M GOING TO HIT S.H.I.E.L.D. WITH SO MANY CIVIL AND CRIMINAL SUITS YOU'LL WISH YOU NEVER REBUILT THIS SPOOK CITY!
I OWE YOU AN APOLOGY, COUNSELOR--AN' YOU GOT IT!
THAT SOUPED-UP SHAVING CREAM DON'T DO SQUAT FER PUBLIC RELATIONS, BUT IT DOES THE JOB WITH MINIMUM HASSLE AN' HARM TO MY BOYS AN' WHOEVER WE'RE AFTER.
FRANKLY, WE DIDN'T WANNA TAKE ANY CHANCES WITH SOMEONE A YOUR ABILITIES--
ABILITIES? WHAT DO YOU--?
LOOK, MURDOCK, DON'T INSULT MY INTELLIGENCE, I'LL RETURN THE FAVOR! "KNOW-ALL, SEE-ALL", REMEMBER?
YOU WANNA GET IN YOUR RED JAMMIES AN' JUMP OFF ROOFTOPS, THAT'S BETWEEN YOU AN' YOUR THERAPIST!


WHAT'S BETWEEN ME AN YOU IS THIS..
YOU GOT A LONG STANDIN' BEEF WITH THE KINGPIN--KNOCK YERSELVES OUT. I NORMALLY SAY, BUT NOW FISK'S UN-KNOWINGLY MIXED UP WITH A GROUP SHIELD'S INTEREST-ED IN, AN--
WHAT GROUP?
I'M NOT AT LIBERTY. NEED TO KNOW B.S., YOU UNDERSTAND.
THING IS, WE WANNA USE THIS CONNECTION TO PULL A STING ON THAT GROUP.
BUT THAT'LL GO NOWHERE UNLESS THE KINGPIN'S LEFT ALONE AN' ALLOWED TO BUILD THAT LINK TO THE POINT WHERE WE CAN USE IT TO OUR ADVANTAGE.
I'VE SPOKEN WITH THE USUALS--SPIDERMAN, PUNISHER--ASKED 'EM TO LAYOFF THE BIG MAN FER THE TIME BEIN'.
I'M ASKIN' THE SAME A' YOU, COUNSELOR.
AGENT ROTHER, MR MURDOCK'LL BE LEAVIN' US SOON...
I'VE GOT MY OWN AGENDA FURY...
DON'T WE ALL?
BUT KEEP THIS IN MIND--THE WHOLE SETUP HERE'S JUST TO KEEP TRACK A' TUSKO IN REGARDS TO THIS BUNCH WE'RE AFTER.
THAT'S AN INVESTMENT WE WANT A PAYOFF ON THE WITH YOUR COOPERATION OR NOT.'
THAT A THREAT?
A GUARANTEE.
ALL THIS HARDWARE JUST TO GRIND OUT SOMETHING ON THE CREW YOU WANT, HUH? AND THE KINGPIN.
OKAY, FURY I'LL THINK ABOUT THAT... I PROMISE...
C'MON, MURDOCK...


"...ROUND TRIP TIME."
THIS FACILITY'S ONLY TEMPORARY, BUT IT'S LOCATION CAN'T BE COMPROMISED...
...SOOO IT'S BACK UNDER FOR YOU, PAL!
YOU WANT SOME FREE ADVICE, I'D THINK ABOUT WHAT THE COLONEL HAD TO SAY!
SPLAT
SPLAT
OH, I AM, AGENT..
HEY!
...CAN'T GET IT OUT OF MY HEAD YOU MIGHT SAY!
THE CLICK AND WHIRR OF ALL THOSE MACHINES BACK THERE...
UGGF!
HELLO? AGENT ROTHER? WAKE UP?
HNNGH... YOU'RE ASKIN' FOR IT, PAL...

WHOA! WHOA! WHATTA YA DOIN'?!
OKAY, MURDOCK, YOU'VE HAD YOUR FUN-- JOKE'S OVER! NOW GIVE IT HERE!
I THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER ASK...
GET A MOVE ON--WE'VE INCONVENIENCED THIS GUY MURDOCK ENOUGH TONIGHT!
RE-AGENT'S DONE!
CRACK HIM!
AND LET'S GET A REPAIR CREW ON THAT OFFICE DOOR WHILE WE'RE--
WAIT A...THIS AIN'T NO ATTORNEY WE GOT HERE, GUYS...
...IT'S ONE OF OURS!
JOKE'S OVER...



FISK
WFAT
VANESSA
MEDIA
HAND
TELEVISI
TYPHOID
STICK

CHARACTERS CRAWL ACROSS THE SCREEN, WARM PHOSPHORS UNDER MY FINGERS WRITING OUT AN INDICTMENT.

FISK'S BACKERS IN HIS MEDIA VENTURE--ONLY FRONT COMPANIES FOR FOREIGN INVESTORS.

FOREIGN OWNERSHIP OF BROADCASTING IS ILLEGAL UNDER FEDERAL LAW, RAISING SERIOUS QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT THE ALMIGHTY KINGPIN KNEW WHEN HE MADE HIS PURCHASES.

analysis suggests strong connection between subject Fisk, mercenary grouping designate "Hand," and terrorist cluster

BUT MORE DAMNING STILL IS WHAT S.H.I.E.L.D.'S FACTS AND FIGURES REVEAL TO BE LURKING BEHIND FISK'S "FOREIGN INVESTORS."

HYDRA

THE NEWLY REFORMED TERRORISTS' ORGANIZATION, EAGER TO GET ITS TENTACLES INTO MEDIA WHICH IT COULD THEN MANIPULATE IN ITS OWN INSIDIOUS WAYS

A CABAL OF ASSASSINS CALLING THEMSELVES "THE HAND" RECENTLY MADE A MOVE ON NEW YORK--IT'S OBVIOUS NOW THEY WERE ACTING ON BEHALF OF HYDRA.

AND IT'S TEMPTING TO THINK THAT COLLUSION--KNOWING, EVEN UNKNOWING--WITH THAT MURDEROUS CADRE OF TERRORISTS MAY BE WHAT FINALLY TAINTS THE UNTOUCHABLE KINGPIN ONCE AND FOR ALL.

ANSWERS.

AND AMMUNITION.

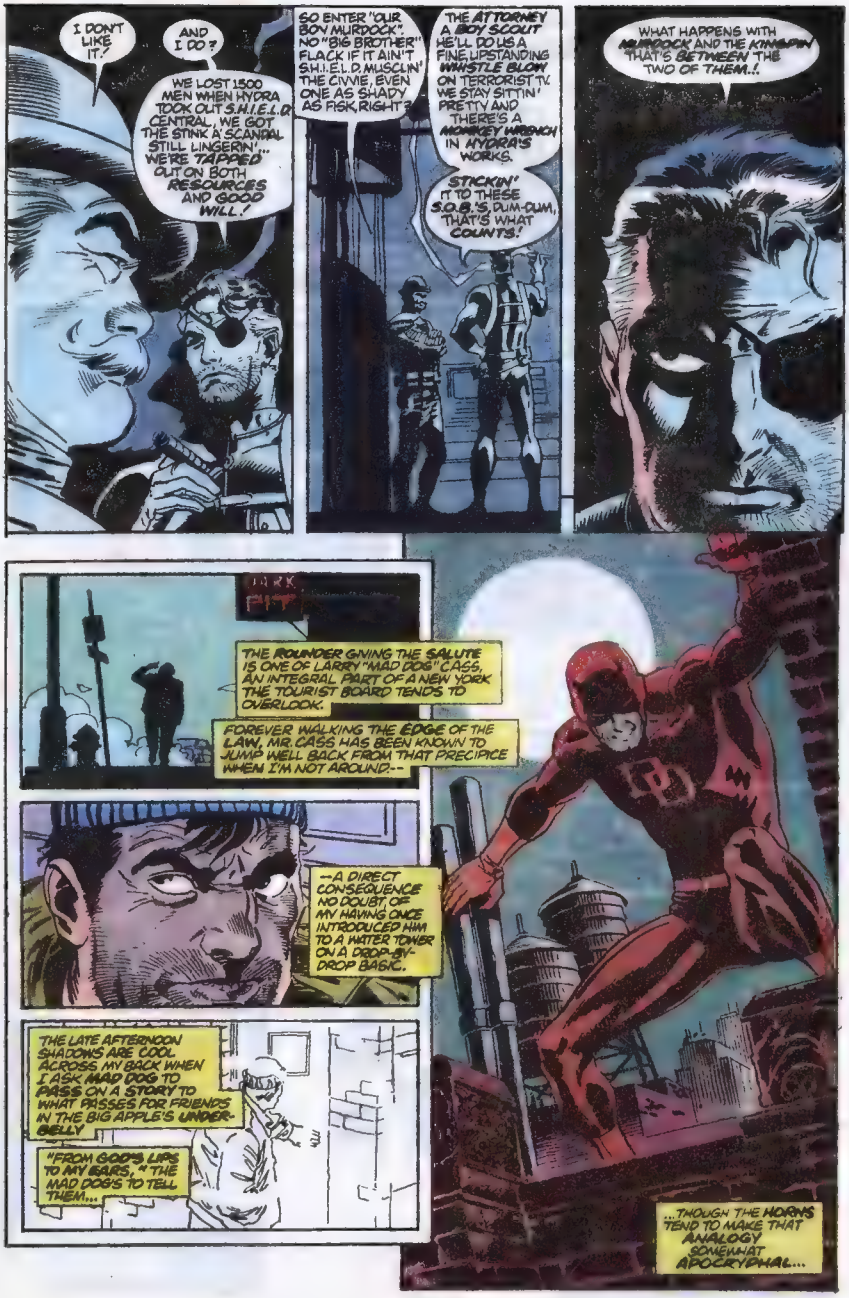
SPARRT

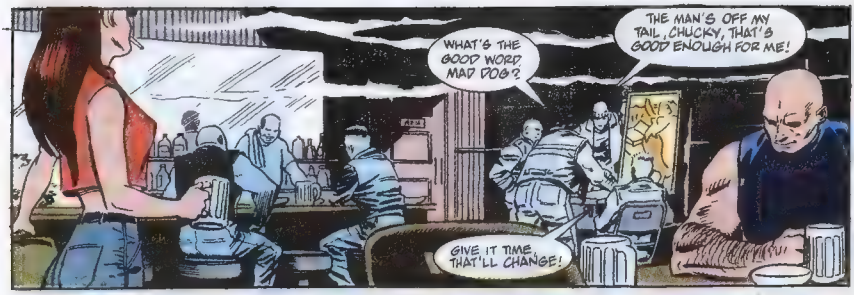
DON'T LIKE KEEPIN' OUR OWN IN THE DARK ON THIS, NICKY.

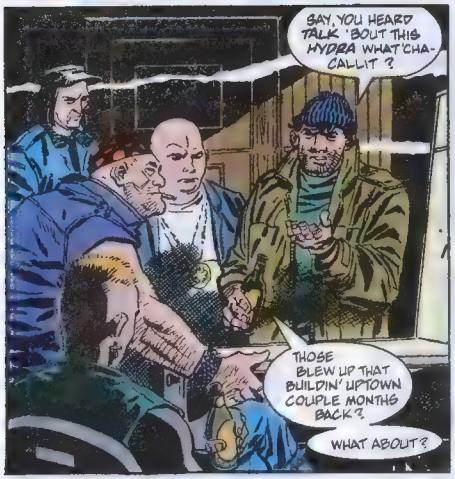
EVEN TWO CAN BE ONE TOO MANY IF YOU'RE LOOKIN' AT KEEPIN' A SECRET, ALOYISIOUS.

HAS TO BE. IS THAT IT? LIKE GETTIN' THE COUNSELOR TO DO OUR DIRTY WORK...

IT'S ALL DIRTY.


I DON'T LIKE IT.
AND I DO?
WE LOST 1500 MEN WHEN HYDRA TOOK OUT S.H.I.E.L.D. CENTRAL. WE GOT THE STINK A' SCANDAL STILL LINGERIN'... WE'RE TAPPED OUT ON BOTH RESOURCES AND GOOD WILL.!
SO ENTER "OUR BOY MURDOCK." NO "BIG BROTHER" FLACK IF IT AIN'T S.H.I.E.L.D. MUSCLIN' THE CIVVIE, EVEN ONE AS SHADY AS FISK, RIGHT?
THE ATTORNEY A BOY SCOUT HE'LL DO US A FINE, UPSTANDING WHISTLE BLOW ON TERRORIST TV. WE STAY SITTIN' PRETTY AND THERE'S A MONKEY WRENCH IN HYDRA'S WORKS.
STICKIN' IT TO THESE S.O.B.'S, DUM-DUM, THAT'S WHAT COUNTS!
WHAT HAPPENS WITH MURDOCK AND THE ARMOR THAT'S BETWEEN THE TWO OF THEM.!
THE ROUNDER GIVING THE SALUTE IS ONE OF LARRY "MAD DOG" CASS, AN INTEGRAL PART OF A NEW YORK THE TOURIST BOARD TENDS TO OVERLOOK.
FOREVER WALKING THE EDGE OF THE LAW, MR. CASS HAS BEEN KNOWN TO JUMP WELL BACK FROM THAT PRECIPICE WHEN I'M NOT AROUND--
--A DIRECT CONSEQUENCE NO DOUBT, OF MY HAVING ONCE INTRODUCED HIM TO A WATER TOWER ON A DROP-BY-DROP BASIS..
THE LATE AFTERNOON SHADOWS ARE COOL ACROSS MY BACK WHEN I ASK MAD DOG TO PASS ON A STORY TO WHAT PASSES FOR FRIENDS IN THE BIG APPLE'S UNDER-BELLY
"FROM GOD'S LIPS TO MY EARS," THE MAD DOG'S TO TELL THEM...
...THOUGH THE HORNS TEND TO MAKE THAT ANALOGY SOMEWHAT APOCRYPHAL...

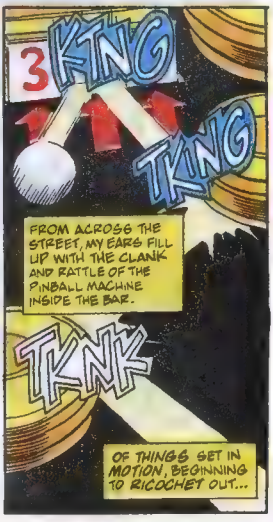

WHAT'S THE GOOD WORD, MAD DOG?
THE MAN'S OFF MY TAIL, CHUCKY, THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME!
GIVE IT TIME, THAT'LL CHANGE!


SAY, YOU HEARD TALK 'BOUT THIS HYDRA WHAT'CHA-CALLIT?
THOSE BLEW UP THAT BUILDIN' UPTOWN COUPLE MONTHS BACK?
WHAT ABOUT?

SAY GO'S THEY BEEN JERKIN' THE FAT MAN'S CHAIN OF LATE...
KINGPIN? NO WAY!
WHAT I HEAR.

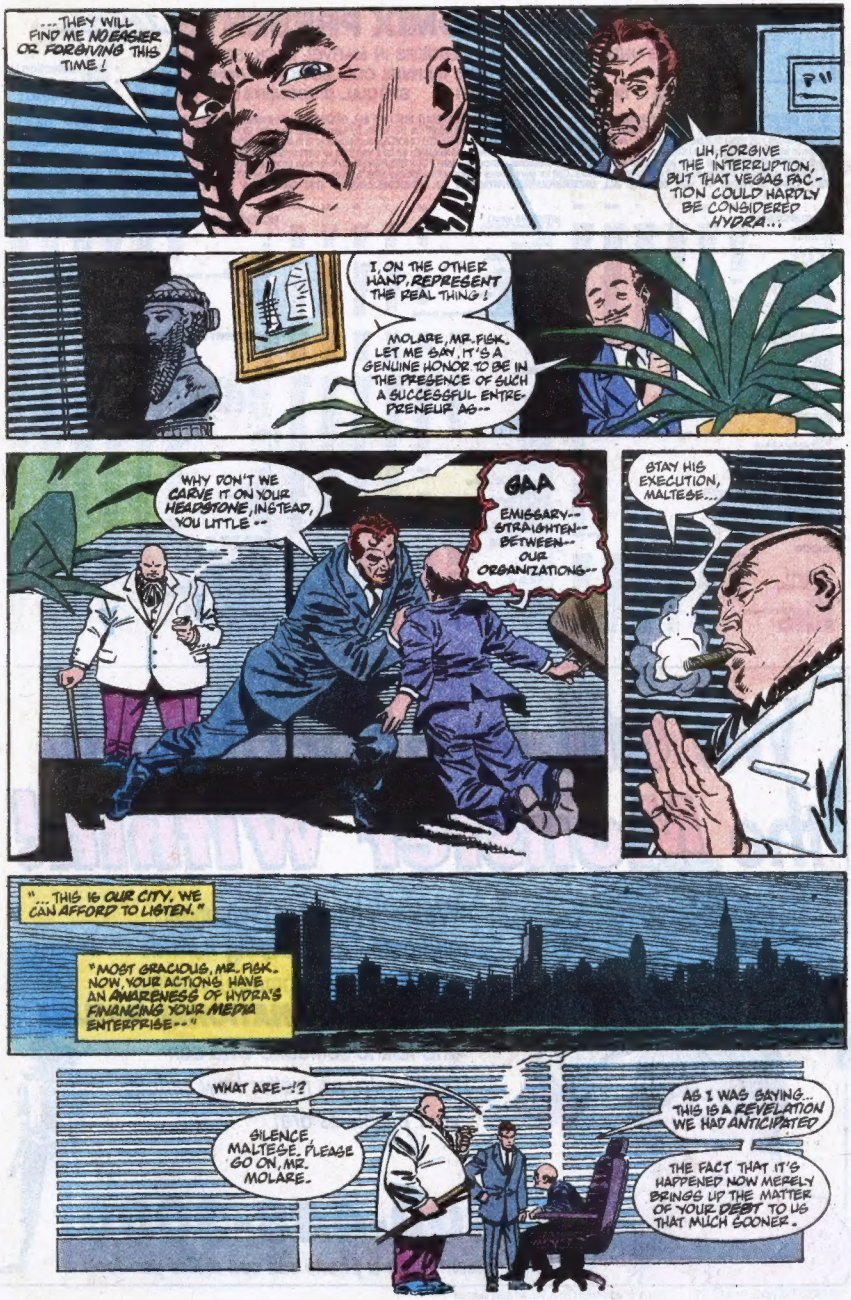
STILL, IF HE COULD... GUESS THAT'D MEAN THE BIG BOY WASN'T AS ALL-POWERFUL AS HE LIKE TO MAKE YA THINK, RIGHT?
SINCE WHEN DOES HE GET PUSHED AROUND? JUST TALK!

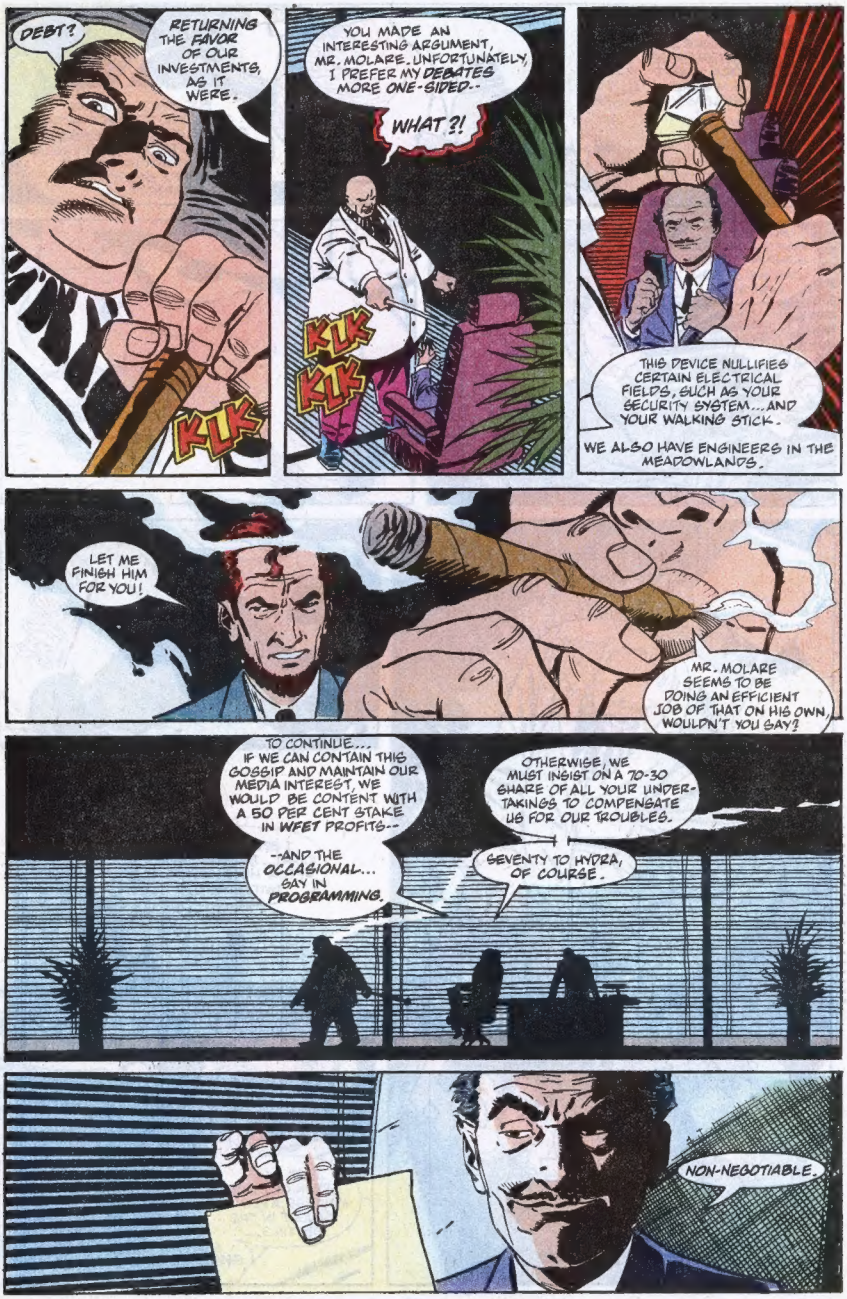
HYDRA, HUH?


3 KNG
TKNG
FROM ACROSS THE STREET, MY EARS FILL UP WITH THE CLANK AND RATTLE OF THE PINBALL MACHINE INSIDE THE BAR.
TKNK
OF THINGS SET IN MOTION, BEGINNING TO RICOCHET OUT...

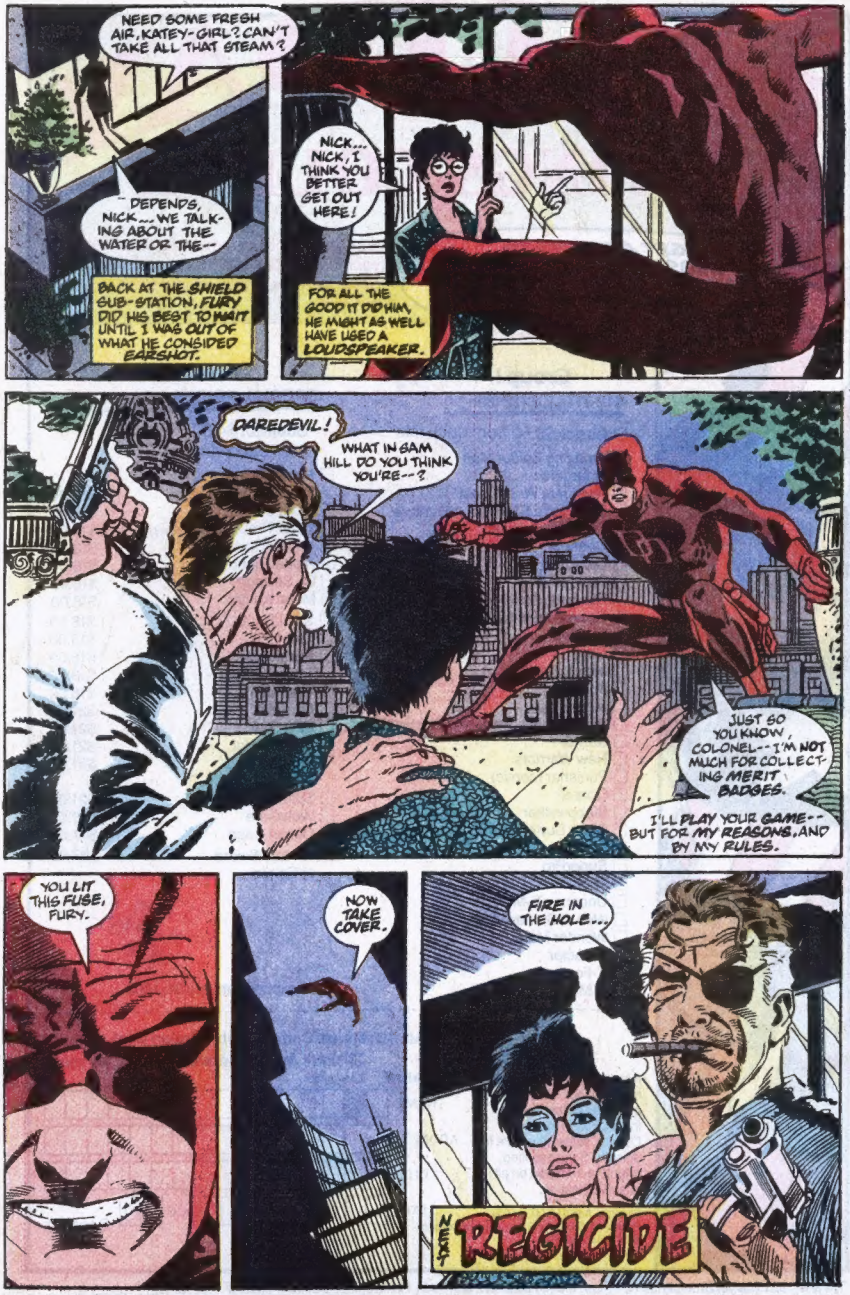
YOUR ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT STATUS?
TAP TAP TAP
THE ENTIRE SCENARIO IS IN JEOPARDY!
THE TRUTH OF OUR INVOLVEMENT THREATENS TO BECOME COMMON KNOWLEDGE!
AND WHO DO WE HAVE TO "THANK" FOR THIS DISRUPTION OF OUR MACHINATIONS?
WE MUST ASSUME FISK HIMSELF, SPREADING THE WORD THROUGH HIS CRIMINAL ELEMENT TO UNDERMINE OUR INFLUENCE!
I DO ADMIT TO A CERTAIN RELIEF...
I TIRE OF TEXAS AND ITS REQUIRED DRAWL...
NOT TO MENTION THIS ENTIRE CHARADE!
NOW HOW IT IS WE CAN SUBLIMINALLY MANIPULATE THE MEDIA IF THE KINGPIN INSISTS ON PUTTING HYDRA'S NAMES ON THE LIPS OF EVERYONE IN THE UNDERWORLD ON UP?!
AGREED, LIEUTENANT GAROTTE.

YOUR ORDERS, BARON VON STRUCKER?
ALLOW MR. FISK AN OPPORTUNITY TO ARREST THE DAMAGE AND SALVAGE OUR ENTERPRISE.
A FINAL OPPORTUNITY...
HYDRA? ARE YOU CERTAIN?
IT WOULD APPEAR THEY ARE SOWING STORIES THROUGH LOW LEVEL CHANNELS TO SUBORDINATE YOUR AUTHORITY.
THEN THE RUMORS OF SEDITION ARE SOMETHING MORE, HMMM?
I HAD AN ENGINEER DESIGN THIS STICK FOR ME... BEFORE I HAD HIM BURIED IN THE MEADOWLANDS.
IT FIRED A LETHAL DISCHARGE OF ENERGY, IN A TIME WHEN I TOOK A MORE HANDS ON APPROACH TO THE BUSINESS...
...BEFORE VANESSA WENT...
SIR... ABOUT THIS HYDRA PROBLEM...
THEY ATTEMPTED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF MY INDUSTRY ONCE BEFORE, MALTESE, IN LAS VEGAS...


...THEY WILL FIND ME NO EASIER OR FORGIVING THIS TIME!
UH, FORGIVE THE INTERRUPTION, BUT THAT VEGAS FACTION COULD HARDLY BE CONSIDERED HYDRA...
I, ON THE OTHER HAND, REPRESENT THE REAL THING!
MOLARE, MR. FISK. LET ME SAY, IT'S A GENUINE HONOR TO BE IN THE PRESENCE OF SUCH A SUCCESSFUL ENTREPRENEUR AS--
WHY DON'T WE CARVE IT ON YOUR HEADSTONE, INSTEAD, YOU LITTLE--
GAA
EMISSARY--STRAIGHTEN--BETWEEN--OUR ORGANIZATIONS--
STAY HIS EXECUTION, MALTESE...
"... THIS IS OUR CITY. WE CAN AFFORD TO LISTEN."
"MOST GRACIOUS, MR. FISK. NOW, YOUR ACTIONS HAVE AN AWARENESS OF HYDRA'S FINANCING YOUR MEDIA ENTERPRISE--"
WHAT ARE--!?
SILENCE, MALTESE. PLEASE GO ON, MR. MOLARE.
AS I WAS SAYING... THIS IS A REVELATION WE HAD ANTICIPATED
THE FACT THAT IT'S HAPPENED NOW MERELY BRINGS UP THE MATTER OF YOUR DEBT TO US THAT MUCH SOONER.


DEBT?
RETURNING THE FAVOR OF OUR INVESTMENTS, AS IT WERE.
KLK
YOU MADE AN INTERESTING ARGUMENT, MR. MOLARE. UNFORTUNATELY, I PREFER MY DEBATES MORE ONE-SIDED--
WHAT?!
KLK
KLK
THIS DEVICE NULLIFIES CERTAIN ELECTRICAL FIELDS, SUCH AS YOUR SECURITY SYSTEM... AND YOUR WALKING STICK.
WE ALSO HAVE ENGINEERS IN THE MEADOWLANDS.
LET ME FINISH HIM FOR YOU!
MR. MOLARE SEEMS TO BE DOING AN EFFICIENT JOB OF THAT ON HIS OWN, WOULDN'T YOU SAY?
TO CONTINUE... IF WE CAN CONTAIN THIS GOSSIP AND MAINTAIN OUR MEDIA INTEREST, WE WOULD BE CONTENT WITH A 50 PER CENT STAKE IN WFET PROFITS--
--AND THE OCCASIONAL... SAY IN PROGRAMMING.
OTHERWISE, WE MUST INSIST ON A 70-30 SHARE OF ALL YOUR UNDERTAKINGS TO COMPENSATE US FOR OUR TROUBLES.
SEVENTY TO HYDRA, OF COURSE.
NON-NEGOTIABLE.

I HOPE YOU APPRECIATE THE SPECIAL NATURE OF YOUR POSITION, HERE-- PAPERWORK IS NOT HYDRA'S WAY, TO SAY THE LEAST!
BUT SINCE YOU LIKE TO CLOAK YOURSEF IN THE FACADE OF A BUSINESSMAN, MY SUPERIORS ARE HAPPY TO GO ALONG WITH YOUR LITTLE GAME IN A SPIRIT OF COOPERATION!
NOW, WHAT SAY? WE'RE REASONABLE MEN-- CAN WE GET ON WITH THIS?
MOLARE, I AM FAR FROM REASONABLE.
THRRNCH
I BELIEVE MR. MOLARE MENTIONED A FONDNESS FOR THE MEADOWLANDS.
I BELIEVE YOU'RE RIGHT... THOUGH PERHAPS AFTER HE'S STOPPED TWITCHING...
WHY WAIT?
YOU'VE RUINED YOUR STICK, MR. FISK.
JUST A TINY SPECK OF BONE, MALTESE, A FEW HAIRS CAUGHT IN THE SETTING...
SUCH A SMALL THING, REALLY...


NEED SOME FRESH AIR, KATEY-GIRL? CAN'T TAKE ALL THAT STEAM?
DEPENDS, NICK... WE TALKING ABOUT THE WATER OR THE--
BACK AT THE SHIELD SUB-STATION, FURY DID HIS BEST TO WAIT UNTIL I WAS OUT OF WHAT HE CONSIDED EARSHOT.
NICK... NICK, I THINK YOU BETTER GET OUT HERE!
FOR ALL THE GOOD IT DID HIM, HE MIGHT AS WELL HAVE USED A LOUDSPEAKER.
DAREDEVIL!
WHAT IN SAM HILL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE--?
JUST SO YOU KNOW, COLONEL--I'M NOT MUCH FOR COLLECTING MERIT BADGES.
I'LL PLAY YOUR GAME--BUT FOR MY REASONS, AND BY MY RULES.
YOU LIT THIS FUSE, FURY.
NOW TAKE COVER.
FIRE IN THE HOLE...
NEXT REGICIDE